

**Status of All Claims in the Application:**

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The storage system of claim [[62]] 95 wherein the first axis is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

39-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 63 wherein the first axis is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

48-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A transport assembly for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the tape drive including a cartridge receiver, the transport assembly comprising:

a transporter including a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver that receives the second cartridge;

a transport mover that moves the transporter between the storage rack and the tape drive; and

a cartridge mover that moves one of the cartridges between the storage rack and one of the transport receivers, the cartridge mover including a gripper assembly that grips one of the cartridges, a first gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along a first axis relative to the transporter, and a second gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly to move one of the cartridges relative to the transporter along a second axis ~~relative to the transporter, the~~

~~second axis being~~ that is angled relative to the first axis.

52. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 51 wherein the first axis is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

53. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 51 wherein the transport mover moves the transporter along an X axis, along a Y axis and about a Z axis that is substantially perpendicular to the X axis and the Y axis.

54. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim 53 wherein the storage rack includes a plurality of tape receivers, and wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter between zero degrees and approximately 180 degrees about the Z axis to transport one of the cartridges between one of the tape receivers and the cartridge receiver.

55. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 53 wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter at least approximately 90 degrees about the Z axis to transport one of the cartridges between one of the tape receivers and the cartridge receiver.

56. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 51 further including a guide that extends substantially between the storage rack and the tape drive, the transport mover moving the transporter between the storage rack and the tape drive along the guide.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) A storage system including a storage rack, a tape drive and the transport assembly of claim 51 that is positioned near the storage rack and the tape drive, the storage rack including a plurality of tape receivers and a transporter sensor, the sensor detecting alignment of the transporter relative to at least one of the tape receivers.

59. (Currently Amended) A method for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the method comprising the steps of:

gripping a first cartridge with a gripper assembly;

moving the gripper assembly along a first axis relative to a transporter with a first gripper mover to move the first cartridge into a first transport receiver of the transporter, the transporter being movable relative to the storage rack; and

moving the gripper assembly ~~along~~ substantially parallel to a second axis relative to the transporter with a second gripper mover to move the first cartridge toward a second transport receiver of the transporter, the second axis being substantially perpendicular angled relative to the first axis[[:]]

~~gripping a second cartridge with the gripper assembly; and~~

~~moving the gripper assembly along the first axis relative to the transporter with the first gripper mover to move the second cartridge into the transporter.~~

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59 further comprising the step of moving the transporter with a transport mover to transport one of the cartridges to [[a]] the tape drive.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the step of moving the transporter includes moving the transporter along an X axis, along a Y axis and about a Z axis that is substantially perpendicular the X and Y axes.

62. (Canceled).

63. (Previously Presented) A transport assembly for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the tape drive including a cartridge receiver, the transport assembly comprising:

a transporter including a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver that receives the second cartridge;

a transport mover that moves the transporter relative to the storage rack and the tape drive, the transport mover moving the transporter along an X axis and a Y axis, and rotating the transporter about a Z axis that is substantially perpendicular to the X and Y axes; and

a cartridge mover that moves one of the cartridges between the storage rack and one of the transport receivers, the cartridge mover including (i) a gripper assembly that grips one of the cartridges, (ii) a first gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along a first axis relative to the transporter, and (iii) a second gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along a second axis relative to the transporter, the second axis being angled relative to the first axis.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim [[64]] 63 wherein the first X axis is substantially perpendicular to the second Y axis.

66. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim [[64]] 63 wherein at least one of the tape receivers is angled relative to the cartridge receiver.

67. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim [[64]] 63 wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter between approximately zero degrees and approximately 180 degrees about the second axis.

68. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim [[64]] 63 wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter at least approximately 90 degrees about the second axis.

69-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A storage system including a storage rack and the transport assembly of claim [[64]] 63 positioned near the storage rack.

73. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 72 wherein the storage rack includes a plurality of tape receivers and a transporter sensor, the sensor detecting alignment of the transporter relative to at least one of the tape receivers.

74. (Currently Amended) A transport assembly for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the storage rack including a plurality of tape receivers, the tape drive including a cartridge receiver, the transport assembly comprising:

a transporter that includes a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver that receives the second cartridge, the transporter being movable relative to the storage rack; and

a gripper assembly that grips one of the cartridges and moves one of the cartridges into the transporter, the gripper assembly moving one of the cartridges along a first axis relative to the transporter and along a second axis relative to the transporter that is different than the first axis[;]] and

~~a mover that rotates the gripper assembly about a second axis that is different than the first axis.~~

75. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 74 wherein the first axis is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

76. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 74 wherein at least one of the tape receivers is angled relative to the cartridge receiver.

77. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim 74 further comprising wherein the a mover that rotates the gripper assembly between approximately zero degrees and approximately 180 degrees about the second a third axis that is different than the first and second axes.

78. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim ~~[[74]]~~ 77 wherein the mover rotates the gripper assembly at least approximately 90 degrees about the second third axis.

79. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim ~~[[74]]~~ 77 wherein ~~the gripper assembly includes~~ further comprising a first gripper mover ~~than that~~ moves the gripper along the first axis relative to the transporter, and a second gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along ~~a third~~ second axis relative to the transporter ~~that is different than the first axis and the second axis.~~

80. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 79 wherein the third axis is substantially perpendicular to the first axis.

81. (Previously Presented) The transport assembly of claim 79 wherein the second axis is substantially perpendicular to the first axis and the third axis.

82. (Currently Amended) The transport assembly of claim 74 wherein the mover rotates the transporter and the gripper assembly simultaneously about the ~~second~~ third axis.

83. (Previously Presented) A storage system including a storage rack and the transport assembly of claim 74 positioned near the storage rack.

84. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 83 wherein the storage rack includes a plurality of tape receivers and a transporter sensor, the sensor detecting alignment of the transporter relative to at least one of the tape receivers.

85-92. (Canceled)

93. (New) The method of claim 59 further comprising the steps of gripping a second cartridge with the gripper, and moving the gripper along the first axis relative to the transporter with the first gripper mover to move the second cartridge into the first transport receiver of the transporter while the first cartridge is positioned in the transporter.

94. (New) The method of claim 93 wherein each of the steps are performed without moving the transporter relative to the storage rack.

95. (New) A transport assembly for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the tape drive including a cartridge receiver, the transport assembly comprising:

a transporter including a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver that receives the second cartridge;

a transport mover that moves the transporter between the storage rack and the tape drive; and

a cartridge mover that moves one of the cartridges between the storage rack and one of the transport receivers, the cartridge mover including a gripper assembly that grips one of the cartridges, a first gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along a first axis relative to the transporter, and a second gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly between the first transport receiver and the second transport receiver along a second axis relative to the transporter, the second axis being angled relative to the first axis.

96. (New) A transport assembly for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the tape drive including a cartridge receiver, the transport assembly comprising:

a transporter including a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver that receives the second cartridge;

a transport mover that moves the transporter between the storage rack and the tape drive; and

a cartridge mover that moves one of the cartridges between the storage rack and one of the transport receivers, the cartridge mover including a gripper assembly that grips one of the cartridges, a first gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly along a first axis relative to the transporter, and a second gripper mover that moves the gripper assembly relative to the transporter substantially parallel to a second axis that extends between the first transport receiver and the second transport receiver.



97. (New) The transport assembly of claim 96 wherein the first axis is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

98. (New) The transport assembly of claim 96 wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter about a third axis that is different than the first and second axes.

99. (New) The transport assembly of claim 98 wherein the transport mover rotates the transporter between approximately zero degrees and approximately 180 degrees about the third axis.

100. (New) The transport assembly of claim 98 wherein the third axis is substantially perpendicular to the first axis and the second axis.

101. (New) The transport assembly of claim 96 wherein the transport mover moves the transporter substantially parallel to the second axis and about a third axis that is substantially perpendicular to the second axis.

102. (New) The transport assembly of claim 96 further including a guide that extends at least partially between the storage rack and the tape drive, the transport mover moving the transporter between the storage rack and the tape drive along the guide.

103. (New) A storage system including a storage rack, a tape drive and the transport assembly of claim 96 that is positioned near the storage rack and the tape drive, the storage rack including a plurality of tape receivers and a transporter sensor, the sensor detecting alignment of the transporter relative to at least one of the tape receivers.

104. (New) A method for moving a first cartridge and a second cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the method comprising the steps of:

moving a transporter to a first position relative to the storage rack;

gripping a first cartridge with a first gripper;

moving the first gripper relative to the transporter to move the first cartridge between the storage rack and the transporter;

gripping a second cartridge with the first gripper; and

moving the first gripper relative to the transporter to move the second cartridge between the storage rack and the transporter while the transporter remains in the first position.

105. (New) The method of claim 104 wherein the step of moving the second cartridge occurs while the first cartridge is positioned in the transporter.

106. (New) A method for moving a first cartridge between a storage rack and a tape drive, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a transporter that is movable relative to the storage rack, the transporter having a first transport receiver that receives the first cartridge and a second transport receiver;

moving the first cartridge into the transporter along a first axis with a gripper assembly; and

moving the first cartridge relative to the transporter along a second axis that is angled relative to the first axis.